

What is a Turnaround School Operator?

The goal of school turnaround is to realize significant improvement over a short time. This requires swift attention to school-level autonomy, including the freedom to select the administrative team, teachers and staff, and flexibility with educational programming and school budgeting. While the school can have open enrollment, students in the attendance boundary area must be offered educational services.

The primary responsibility of a Turnaround School Operator is to implement an instructional program that results in improved student performance. The State Board will establish performance targets for each school. The TSO will manage a school and is responsible for all aspects of administration including but not limited to personnel, budget decisions, food service, information technology, and extracurricular supports. In overseeing the school, the TSO will, among other duties outlined in any contract established between the state and the TSO, be responsible for the following:

- Meeting agreed upon performance criteria and acceptance of the consequences for failing to do so.
- Providing data about interim and annual school-level results, including both leading and lagging indicators of success and failure.
- Developing a community engagement strategy to help build support for dramatic change in the school.
- Recruiting a diverse population of teachers and leaders who have a proven record of success in increasing student achievement.
- Engaging in community support to garner human resources needed for reform.
- Establishing the school calendar according to student needs.
- Identifying and engaging supporting partners (e.g. mental health organization) to address social, emotional and behavioral issues.
- Managing the school using a budget based on available per pupil amount proportionate share of federal funding (i.e., Title I, Title II, Title III, Education Technology, Special Education).
- Ensuring compliance with all applicable federal program requirements, including but not limited to Title I, Title II, Title III, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (as adopted in 511 IAC 7).